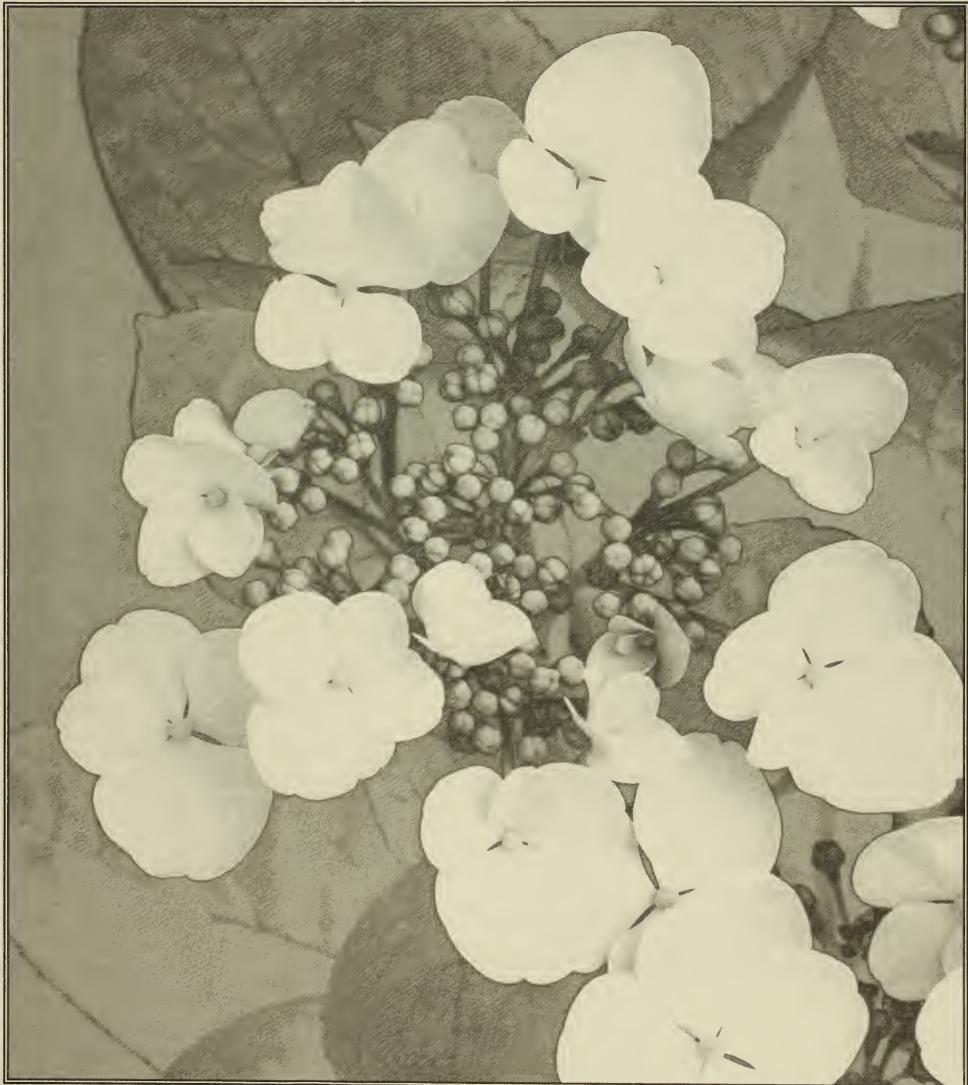


California GARDEN

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2001

Volume 92 No. 5

\$2.00



HORTICULTURAL CALENDAR

Sept. 1 Sat.

★SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION LIBRARY open from 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Mon.-Fri., also the first and third Saturdays. Members of SDFA can check out books. (Membership \$10 a year, includes magazine.) Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 105. 619/232-5762.

Sept. 1 Sat.

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY GARDEN CLASS on Fall Vegetables. Starts at 9:00 a.m. 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271. Free.

Sept. 1 Sat.

THE HUNTINGTON 18th Annual Succulent Plants Symposium. "The New Taxonomy: Are Plant Families a Thing of the Past?" 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. 1150 Oxford Road, San Marino. Registration required \$65 includes lunch. Call 626/405-3504.

Sept. 1-2 Sat.-Sun.

LOS ANGELES INTERNATIONAL FERN SOCIETY Annual Fern and Exotic Plant Show and Sale. Both days 9:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Arboretum of Los Angeles County, 301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia. Show, workshops & lectures are free. General admission to Arboretum. 562/864-0883.

Sept. 8 Sat.

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY GARDEN CLASS on Fall Bedding & Perennial Color. Starts at 9:00 a.m. 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271. Free.

Sept. 8-9 Sat.-Sun.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY ARBORETUM Gourd Festival. Includes competitions, exhibitions, and sales. Sat. 9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Sun. 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. 301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia. 626/821-3222. Fee.

Sept. 9 Sun.

SAN DIEGO-IMPERIAL COUNTIES IRIS SOCIETY Annual Iris Rhizome and Plant Sale. 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado in the corner of patio "B". Free.

Sept. 12 Wed.

THE HUNTINGTON Fall Planting Workshop. 3:00-5:00 p.m. Registration \$10 for members, \$20 non-members. Adults only. 1150 Oxford Road, San Marino. Call 626/405-2128.

Sept. 13 Thurs.

THE HUNTINGTON Arborist and garden designer Tom Piergrossi will discuss "Pruning Trees and Shrubs for Optimum Health and Beauty." 2:30 p.m. in Friends' Hall. 1150 Oxford Road, San Marino. 626/405-2100. Lecture free with general admission.

Sept. 15 Sat.

★SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION LIBRARY will be open. See Sept. 1 for details.

Sept. 15 Sat.

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY GARDEN CLASS on Fall Bulbs. Starts at 9:00 a.m. 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271. Free.

Sept. 15-16 Sat.-Sun.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PLUMERIA SOCIETY Show and Sale. Both days 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101. Free.

Sept. 22 Sat.

POINT LOMA GARDEN CLUB Plant Sale. 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Masonic Hall, 1711 Sunset Cliffs Blvd., San Diego.

Sept. 22 Sat.

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY GARDEN CLASS on Cattleya Orchids. Starts at 9:00 a.m. 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271. Free.

Sept. 29 Sat.

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY GARDEN CLASS on Fall Rose Care. Starts at 9:00 a.m. 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271. Free.

Sept. 29-30 Sat.-Sun.

QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS 4th Annual Insect Fair. Both days 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. 230 Quail Gardens Dr., Encinitas. Adults \$5, seniors \$4, children under 12 and members free.

Sept. 29-30 Sat.-Sun.

SAN DIEGO BONSAI CLUB Fall Show and Sale. Both days 10:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101. Free.

Oct. 2 Tues.

★GOURD CRAFT CLASS Sponsored by SDFA. How to Construct and Decorate a Bird Feeder and Decorated Bowl From a Gourd. 9:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 104. Pre-registration required. Fee. See page 154.

continued on page 132



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VOLUME 92

NUMBER 5

THE MAGAZINE FOR THE HANDS-ON GARDENER

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2001

FEATURES

135	Hydrangeas	B. Jones
137	Beautiful, Beneficial Buckwheat	V. Phillips
138	Two New Zealand Trees	R. Cox
139	Do Plants Have Stem Cells?	C. Price and D. Bowman
140	Propagating Matilija Poppy (<i>Romneya Coulteri</i>)	J. De Hart
141	Bunnyless Blossoms	P. Pawlowski
143	On Growing to Pot	M. Brigadier
148	Ask a Master Gardener: About Potted Plants	M. Brigadier
149	Queen's Wreath Vine-Petrea Volubilis	B. Newton
150	At the Getty Museum	R. Horwitz
151	Loquat Trees	V. Innis

DEPARTMENTS

130	Horticultural Calendar	L. Berger
133	Gardening Classes	Grossmont Adult Education
134	Gleanings	B. Jones
140	Book Order Blank	
144	Now Is the Time	M. Truby
154	San Diego Floral Association Classes	M. Walsh
155	Book Reviews	R. Cox
157	Affiliates	L. Beyerle

COVER Illustration by James Dery, DBF Photographic, of lace-cap hydrangea.

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FLOWER SHOWS: Show chairman contact *California Garden*, 619/232-5762 if you want the magazine sold at your show.

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**"HORTICULTURAL CALENDAR", CONTINUED
FROM PAGE 130**

Oct. 6 Sat.

**★SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION
LIBRARY** will be open. See Sept. 1 for details.

Oct. 6 Sat.

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY GARDEN CLASS on Fall, Winter Lawn Care. Starts at 9:00 a.m. 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271. Free.

Oct. 6 Sat.

SAN DIEGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM Opens new exhibit, "Monarca: Butterfly Beyond Boundaries," detailing 250-mile migration of the monarch butterfly. Exhibit runs through Jan. 6, 2002. Visit www.sdnhm.org or 619/232-3821.

Oct. 6-7 Sat.-Sun.

AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY Show and Sale. Both days 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101. Free.

Oct. 8 Mon.

QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS Three Ring Basket Class. 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. 230 Quail Gardens Dr., Encinitas. Pre-registration required. 760/436-3036. Fee.

Oct. 9 Tues.

★SUCCULENT WREATH CLASS Sponsored by SDFA. 9:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. All materials furnished for 14" holiday wreath. Class size limited and pre-registration required by Oct. 5th. \$45 members, \$50 non-members. Contact Marie Walsh 619/298-5182.

Oct. 11-14 Thurs.-Sun.

THE HUNTINGTON Fall Plant Sale. Lectures and Sale. Thurs.-Fri. Noon-4:30 p.m. Sat.-Sun. 10:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. 1150 Oxford Road, San Marino. 626/405-2100. General admission.

Oct. 13 Sat.

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY GARDEN CLASS on House Plants. Starts at 9:00 a.m. 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271. Free.

Oct. 13-14 Sat.-Sun.

QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS Sponsors the 7th Annual San Diego International Orchid Fair and Show. Del Mar Fair Grounds Activity Center (near main gate). Sat. 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Sun. 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. \$2 at the door.

Oct. 16 Tues.

★SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION GENERAL MEETING 5:45 p.m. social hour, 6:30 p.m. dinner catered by Victor, \$11 members,

\$12 non-members. Reservations must be paid by Oct. 11th. 619/232-5762. Program begins at 7:15 p.m. and is free to all. "New Cymbidiums for Your Garden" presented by Ardell (Lucky) and Bob Marlin. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101.

Oct. 16, 23, 30 Tues.

★THREE-DAY FLOWER ARRANGING CLASS Sponsored by SDFA. 9:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Instructor is Velma West. Bring vase, clippers, lunch, some showy blooms, filler flowers, and greenery. \$45 for members, \$50 non-members. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 104. 619/232-5762.

Oct. 18 Thurs.

SAN DIEGO FERN SOCIETY 25th Anniversary Meeting. Come celebrate "The Fun of Ferns." 7:30 p.m. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101. Free.

Oct. 20 Sat.

★SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION LIBRARY will be open. See Sept. 1 for details.

Oct. 20 Sat.

ANNUAL PLANT & CRAFT SALE Hundreds of plants, bulbs, grasses, shrubs, and succulents. 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. First Presbyterian Church, 500 Farragut Circle, El Cajon. Free.

Oct. 20 Sat.

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY Sale. Plants, books, seeds and bulbs. 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Balboa Park, Courtyard of Casa del Prado. 619/685-7321. Free.

Oct. 20 Sat.

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY GARDEN CLASS on Azaleas. Starts at 9:00 a.m. 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271. Free.

Oct. 20-21 Sat.-Sun.

QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS Annual Fall Plant Sale. 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Large quantities of drought-tolerant plants, California natives, cacti, succulents, subtropical plants, bamboo and more. Special admission only \$3 both days. 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas.

Oct. 20-21 Sat.-Sun.

SOGETSU SCHOOL OF IKEBANA-SAN DIEGO BRANCH Show. Both days 11:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101. Free.

Oct. 27 Sat.

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY GARDEN CLASS on Camellias. Starts at 9:00 a.m. 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271. Free.

Oct. 27-28 Sat.-Sun.

SAN DIEGO ORCHID SOCIETY Show and Sale. Sat. Noon-4:00 p.m., Sun 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101. Free.

BALBOA PARK

SAN DIEGO JAPANESE FRIENDSHIP GARDEN

Open Tues. thru Sun. 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Docent tours with reservations. Fee. 619/232-2721.

OFFSHOOT TOURS Ranger guided. Various topics. Saturdays 10:00 a.m. Meet at Visitors Center. 619/235-1121. Free.

INTERPRETIVE WALKS Ranger guided. History oriented topics. Meet at Visitors Center. Tuesdays and Sundays at 1:00 p.m. Free.

ONGOING EVENTS

SAN DIEGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

Canyoneer Walks. Sat-Sun. Sept-June. 619/232-3821 ext 203 or www.sdnhm.org for locations, times and directions. Free.

QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS Garden Tours & Events. 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas. 760/436-3036 or www.qbgardens.com. General Admission.

BLUE SKY ECOLOGICAL RESERVE Walks. Poway. Sat. & Sun. 9:00 a.m. 858/679-5469.

WALKABOUT INTERNATIONAL Local Guided Walks. Newsletter. 619/231-SHOE. Free.

CUYAMACA COLLEGE Water Conservation Garden Landscape Seminar and docent-led garden tour. 2nd Saturday of each month. 9:30 a.m. 619/660-0614. Free.

THE HUNTINGTON is open Tuesday through Friday noon to 4:30 p.m., Saturday and Sunday 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Closed Monday and most holidays. \$10.00 adults, \$8.50 seniors, \$7 students (12-18), under 12 and members free. Group rate(10+) \$7. First Thursday of each month free to all visitors. 626/405-2100 or www.huntington.org.

Deadline for submission to

HORTICULTURAL CALENDAR for NOVEMBER/DECEMBER issue is SEPTEMBER 15. **SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION** is not responsible for changes that are submitted late by the organizations.

FLASH! Master Gardners' Fall Seminars →

GARDENING CLASSES

BETTY NEWTON

12 WEEK COURSE

Flower Gardens: Year-Round Color With Annuals, Perennials, Bulbs, and Old-Fashioned Roses

Beginning Sept. 11 Tues. P.M.

Grossmont High School. 6:20 p.m.-9:30 p.m. Rm 51. 1100 Murray Dr. La Mesa. 619/644-8218 or 619/401-4122. \$22

Beginning Sept. 13 Thurs. A.M.

Foothills Adult Center. 8:50 a.m.-Noon. Rm 12. 1550 Melody Lane, El Cajon. 619/401-4122. \$22

JOYCE GEMMELL

6 WEEK COURSE

Winter Vegetable Gardening

Sept. 14- Oct. 19 Fri. A.M.

Foothills Adult Center. 9:00 a.m.-12:10. Rm 12. 1550 Melody Lane, El Cajon. 619/401-4122. \$15

6 WEEK COURSE

Fruit Tree, Vine, and Berry

Nov. 2- Dec. 14 Fri. A.M.

Foothills Adult Center. 9:00 a.m.-12:10. Rm 12. 1550 Melody Lane, El Cajon. 619/401-4122. \$15

SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY

NOW is the time to join! Learn how easy and fun it is to grow orchids. Meet the experts through society activities including lectures, tours, open houses, and classes.

The society meets the first Tuesday of every month at Casa del Prado in Balboa Park. Cultural classes start at 6:30 p.m. in the library, followed by the regular meeting at 7:30 p.m. in room 101. Refreshments, orchid display, and an orchid raffle follow the meeting.

All this and a great monthly newsletter for only \$10.00 (single membership) or \$12.50 (dual membership) per year. Don't delay, make your check out today to the SDCOS and mail to:



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SDCOS Membership
13127 Roundup
San Diego, CA 92129
(858) 538-6187



Call 858/694-2860 for information and preregistration.

Gleanings . . .

gathered by barbara jones

PUMPKIN TRIVIA . . .

The beautiful orange pumpkin is indigenous to the Western Hemisphere. It originated in Mexico about 9,000 years ago.

Indians were growing pumpkins when the European settlers arrived in the New World. One of our earliest historical stories is that it was served by the Indians to the settlers at the first American Thanksgiving in Plymouth.

Christopher Columbus brought the first seeds to Europe.

The huge pumpkins grown for size are the variety *Prizewinner*. The heaviest winner known weighed 1,061 pounds.

JACK-O'-LANTERN . . .

To have pumpkins for Halloween, seeds should be planted in early June. They need lots of room and water and a warm sunny location. (About 80-120 days from seed to jack-o'-lantern.)

Cut pumpkins are highly perishable and can quickly develop a black mold. It will be more resistant if the cut surface is wiped with a dry cloth and the area covered with petroleum jelly or vegetable oil. Because the cut pumpkin rots so quickly, many are now drawing the face with a marker. After being used for an ornament, it can be cooked.

SUNFLOWERS . . .

Cut sunflowers look like fall and make wonderful decorations when combined with pumpkins and colored corn. There are over 80 species of sunflowers, but the one we see in arrangements are a small variety of *Helianthus annuus*. They should be purchased when the

flower head is about three-fourths open and the petals are slightly turned up. The flower head should be firm to the touch with no pollen in the center. The cut flower should last about a week. They are heavy drinkers. The stems should be cut at an angle and cut up the center for a few inches so there is better hydration. If the heads droop recut the stems and place them in deep warm water. That will usually help. The sunflowers are golden, mahogany red, or bronze red — all gorgeous autumn colors.

HYACINTHS . . .

Bulb is a generic term used for corms, tubers, rhizomes, and bulbs. True bulbs contain an entire plant — stem, leaves, flower. It is not durable like a seed, but is for temporary storage through a period of drought or extreme cold. Tulips, daffodils, hyacinths are bulbs.

Bulbs can be forced to bloom early by the simple act of providing light, water, and warmth. The prettiest and most fragrant ones are called Dutch hyacinth. These plants with 6-inch long racemes of closely packed, tubular, bell-shaped flowers are especially attractive in special glass containers designed for forcing them. Hyacinths will grow just by adding water to the container. It is recommended that one put a pinch of aquarium charcoal in the bottom of the special container, fill it with pebbles up to the narrow neck, place one bulb on top of the pebbles, and fill with water up to cover the very bottom of the bulb (about one-fourth inch). The water must be kept at this height or the bulb will go back into dormancy.

The vase should be kept in a cool, low light area until roots form (about six weeks) and then moved into an area of bright light so the flowers and leaves will form. For an especially attractive container, colored marbles can be used.

Hyacinths can be forced in soil, too. They should be planted in a soil-based planting mix in a well drained pot. They should be kept in low light until about two inches of vegetation is showing, then moved into bright light.

LAZY GARDENERS . . .

Gardening is still one of the most popular hobbies in the United States and sales at gardening stores are up. But gardeners, especially new ones, are discovering that it is a lot of work, and they are looking for easier ways. Roll out mats pre-planted with flowers are selling well. Blooming or ready to bloom plants are popular — no seeds with the required work and wait. The sale of oversize pots to plant with blooming flowers are up. Sprouted perennials that can fully mature in ten to twelve weeks are popular, too. (Mother Nature would take about two years.) Homeowners on the East Coast are happily "planting" artificial trees, shrubs, and flowers in tubs and urns around their patios and terraces. Fortunately, we don't see this too often in the San Diego area. Living plants of all kinds are inexpensive and readily available. (Artificial plants streak and fade quickly in our bright sunshine and do not contribute to cleansing air.)

There are several new books that are chock-full of helpful hints for gardening with less effort.

HYDRANGEAS

BY BARBARA S. JONES

HYDRANGEAS HAVE BEEN PLANTED in San Diego gardens since the early 1900s. In *California Garden*, in March 1910, Kate Sessions states that March is the best month to plant them in San Diego. In August 1911, she advised that hydrangeas were attractive plantings for the north and northeast side of the house. By 1938, she advised that hydrangeas needed heavy trimming when dormant and did better in a shady section of the garden or near a tree.

Hydrangeas became popular again and many were planted in the 40s and 50s. These are still big, healthy plants. Most of these older plants bear huge blooms at least a foot across that are either pinkish or white. One bloom will make a bouquet. The color is affected by the availability of aluminum ions in the soil. If the pH is below 5.5, blue flowers will be produced. In San Diego, blue flowers will be produced if aluminum sulfate is added to the soil. (Spring is the best season to add it to the soil.)

Hydrangea is a genus of over eighty species of deciduous and evergreen shrubs and climbers found in East Asia and North and South America. Our older hydrangeas, *H. macrophylla*, with the large, showy flower heads are *mopheads*. Their flower heads are nearly spherical and are made up of large sterile flowers. A newer hydrangea form in the same species that has become popular is the *lace cap*. These have flattened flower heads with small fertile flowers in the center with large sterile flowers on the outside. Another hydrangea that has cone-shaped, cream colored flower heads, *H. paniculata*, has become available as a potted plant at nurseries and florists.

Currently the *H. macrophyllas* are available in blue, purple, pink, white, burgundy, and two-toned.

Hydrangeas require almost no care and are relatively disease and pest free. John Sandy planted his hydrangeas twenty-five years ago on Point Loma. He planted foot-long cuttings from a gardening friend. He placed four or five cuttings in small mounds of soil. He buried them half way. Not all of them sprouted, but he has a border about twenty feet long in front of his house. He says they give him no trouble, no bugs, no diseases. Every two to three years he uses an all purpose fertilizer but one that does not have too much nitrogen. If he uses a high nitrogen fertilizer the leaves grow big, but no flowers. Every year in November, when the plant goes dormant, he cuts the stems back to two or three buds. During the hot growing season, he waters when the plants look "droopy" — at about two week intervals. His plants are beautiful and the flowers magnificent. He does not use aluminum sulfate

Photograph by James Dery



because he likes the pink flowers.

Authorities recommend that hydrangeas need moist, well-drained, humus-rich soils and sun or partial shade. Our local "old-type" seems to do well in our soil with little water. Potted plants do need a rich, moist soil. The pot should be placed in full light but not directly in the sun. When the air is hot and dry the foliage should be sprayed. Hydrangea plants are very popular now, and small mop-head varieties with small flower heads are available at nurseries plus some lovely lace-cap varieties, large and small.

Hydrangeas make a good cut flower that can last for



*Part of a 20-foot border of hydrangeas at John Sandy's home
(at end of blooming season). Photograph by Roy Jones.*

over a week. The flower head will wilt if not treated correctly. The bottom of the cut stem, cut at an angle, should be burned or placed in boiling water. It is also helpful to dip the cut ends in powdered alum. Then the stems should be placed in deep cool water for at least four hours to hydrate. It will help to drape a wet cloth over the flower head and keep it moist by spraying. The time to pick is when most of the flowers in the flower head are open and it feels firm to the touch. If they are to be used as dry flowers, only those blooming in late summer will hold their shape and color. They can be dried in a vase without water or the flower head can be hung upside down by the stem.

Brides have discovered hydrangeas, too. Some bouquets are just sprays with the stems wrapped, but lovely ones can be made by placing individual flower clusters in a wet foam base. These bouquet bases are available at florist supply stores. The main stem should be treated as a cut flower before the bouquet is made. □

Barbara S. Jones has been gardening in San Diego for over sixty years and writing for **California Garden** for thirty-one years.

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Sincerely, John R. Allen

Pascua Farms

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BEAUTIFUL, BENEFICIAL BUCKWHEAT

BY VALERIE PHILLIPS

BUCKWHEATS CAN BE SUPERSTARS in the drought-tolerant garden, although often overlooked. Their delicate beauty and array of available colors distinguish a group of plants that are also important to numerous species of insects and birds. Most buckwheats are easy to grow with little care and thrive in the driest, hottest part of the garden. Supplemental watering ranges from about twice a month for the thirstiest species to none for the most xeric types, once established. They are terrific in gardens for the cool coast to hot inland valleys.

California is fortunate to have about 220 species of buckwheat growing within its borders and on coastal islands. Buckwheat (*Eriogonum*) is credited as being the largest genus in California. They range in size from tiny perennials several inches in height to large, lacy six-foot shrubs. Prolific bloomers, *Eriogonums* are generally either white, various shades of pink, red, or yellow. Flowers are umbel-like, cyme-like or head-like and cover the plant in layered beauty. The multitudes of tiny flower clusters are nectar sources for many insects, including butterflies, in late spring and summer. Blooms are generally long lasting on the plant and best if left to produce seeds for the birds to feast on in the fall. Most are also exceptional in dried flower arrangements.

Whether tucked into the rock garden, fortifying a steep slope, or providing an elegant backdrop for other perennials, buckwheat is essential in Southern California gardens. Here are a few of the species commonly available at native plant nurseries:

Eriogonum arborescens - Santa Cruz Island Buckwheat, an evergreen perennial shrub, grows to three feet in coastal gardens, smaller in the interior. Very drought tolerant. It needs full sun, and once a month watering after establishment. It has green-gray foliage with pink flowers that hang around from summer to winter. This Channel Islands native is useful in dried flower arrangements. A neat little plant that causes no problems and looks great.

Eriogonum cinereum - Ashyleaf Buckwheat, an evergreen perennial shrub four feet tall and about six

feet wide, needs full sun. Whitish pink flower clusters cover this gray-green plant all summer. It is great for erosion control, good in dry coastal gardens, and excellent in Escondido with water once a month. Bloom period is from May to October.

Eriogonum fasciculatum ssp. *foliolosum* - Flat-Top Buckwheat (California Buckwheat) is an interior perennial shrub to three feet tall with pink to white flowers. This floriferous plant blooms from May to October throughout California. It is very drought tolerant, great against rocks or brick; not recommended as a wild land interface due to its flammability.

Eriogonum giganteum - St. Catherine's Lace is an evergreen perennial shrub three and a half to six feet,

smaller inland than on the coast, needs full to part sun. Huge, flat cymes of white flowers fading to rust red cover this plant from May to December. This Channel Island native has gray foliage; is great as a background plant; has very low water requirements; and does well in the interior. An absolutely stunning plant.

Eriogonum grande rubescens - Red Buckwheat is a Channel Island native perennial subshrub with light to deep pink flowers. It needs full sun on the coast, part shade inland, and has a low water requirement. It does fine in the interior. It is a very attractive small plant to about eighteen inches in height and spread. This plant prefers clay soil. A rare plant.

Eriogonum umbellatum - Sulfur Flower is a flat (under a foot) perennial native west of the Rockies with intense yellow flowers, needing sun to part shade. It is an excellent gray-green ground cover for small areas and very drought tolerant, but best with a little water after establishment. This plant is an excellent choice for rock gardens. A very special little ornamental.

For more information on buckwheat and other California native plants, check out our website at www.laspilitas.com. □

Valerie Phillips is the manager of Las Pilitas Nursery in Escondido, which specializes in California Native Plants. Photograph by the author.

TWO NEW ZEALAND TREES

BY ROSALEEN COX

TWO INTERESTING TREES FROM New Zealand, *Meryta sinclairii* and *Pisonia umbellifera* are planted near one another at the northwest corner of the Casa del Prado Theatre in Balboa Park. Both have large leaves looking a bit like *Ficus* plants. Both belong to little known families.

Meryta sinclairii is a round-headed evergreen tree with paddle shaped, shiny leaves that are clustered near the end of the branches. The genus has about fifteen species but this is the only one usually grown. The specimen on the north side of the Theatre is about 18 feet tall, it may grow to 25 feet. Flowers are yellow-green in terminal panicles, followed by small (half inch) black, succulent berries on female trees. This fruit may take a year to ripen. It belongs to Araliaceae, which includes *Schefflera* and *Fatsia*. This species of *Meryta*, common name puka, is found only on the Three Kings and Hen and Chickens Islands. Three Kings Islands are located off the north tip of North Island, New Zealand. Hen and Chicken Islands are off the eastern coast of North Island. Propagation is by seed or cuttings.



Meryta sinclairii,
in foreground, *Pittosporum tobira* 'Variegata'

Pisonia umbellifera (*P. brunonianiana*) can be found at the north end of the west side of the Casa del Prado

Theatre, just around the corner from the *Meryta*. Not as noticeable as the *Meryta* it is planted near the building and surrounded by *Howeas*. It is about twelve feet in height now and will remain a small tree, perhaps growing to over twenty feet. *Pisonia* was named for Willem Piso a physician and naturalist of Amsterdam who died in 1648. Its common name, bird-catcher tree, refers to extremely sticky seed pods that can capture birds as well as get into clothes or hair. Leaves are large, oval, and glossy. The flowers are insignificant, whitish tubular blooms about an inch long. The tree was flowering the last week of July and had no sign of the stickiness that will follow with the seedpods. It is self propagating, there are a number of seedlings around it. This tree is part of Nyctaginaceae, whose most popular genus is *Bougainvillea*.



Meryta sinclairii

(reduced)

Pisonia umbellifera

There are two variegated forms of *Pisonia umbellifera* in the Botanical Building. The variegated forms seem to stay smaller than the regular species. These are about six feet tall, about the same height as one at Quail Botanical Garden, which is outside but in a somewhat protected area (northeast of the pond in the Pantropic area.) These two are located along the north wall. The plant in the west wing, and just west of a large hybrid *Abutilon*, has a creamy white and light



Pisonia umbellifera (center)

green variegation, while the one in the east wing has less variegation, and it is of a lighter, golden green. The old sign identified it by its former name, *Heimerliodendron brunonianum*. The variegated form is considered a good container or house plant. □

Rosaleen Cox, a retired cost engineer, is the SDFA Librarian and a docent at Quail Botanical Gardens. Photographs by the author.

DO PLANTS HAVE STEM CELLS?

BY CARL PRICE and DARIA PRICE BOWMAN

WE HAVE HEARD INCREASINGLY optimistic accounts of the possibilities of treating a variety of human diseases with stem cells, which are now found in many organs of our bodies and are capable of developing into new tissues. A recent article reported the transfer of stem cells from the skin of diabetic mice into the pancreas, where they acted like islets cells and proceeded to make insulin. Human embryos are the most versatile—and controversial—source of stem cells.

So, do our plant friends have stem cells?

For thousands of years we have been propagating

plants by cuttings: roots, stems, tubers, and even leaves can be placed in water or soil, where they will obligingly put out new growth and regenerate entire plants. Similarly, buds grafted onto compatible root stock are routinely employed in the propagation of fruit trees. Unlike sexual propagation, this *vegetative propagation* produces offspring that are genetically identical with their parents.

Botanists recognized already in the nineteenth century that the cells of fully differentiated plant organs were capable of returning to an immature state and redifferentiating into different plant organs, so that plants could be replicated over and over again. Botanists then generalized these observations into the principle of *totipotentiality*, the notion that *each cell of a plant is capable of developing into any other cell of the plant*.

Forty years ago, F.C. "Skip" Steward at Cornell University carried totipotentiality to a dramatically higher level. He cultured bits of tissue from carrot root under sterile conditions. Shaken gently in an ordinary mix of nutrients, the carrot cells replicated endlessly as undifferentiated cells. So far, this was a familiar demonstration. But then Steward gave cultured cells a certain mix of plant hormones, and globs magically differentiated into structures that looked for all the world like carrot embryos. (We now know them as *embryoids*.) They then developed into mature carrot plants. He had shown that mature, somatic tissue from the roots of a carrot could be returned to the form of embryos previously seen only in seeds!

Georges Morel, who worked in a laboratory in Versailles (actually on the palace grounds), thought long and hard about Steward's findings. He knew that no one in their right mind would bother to grow carrots from tissue culture—it is far easier to scatter seed in your garden—but could the process be used to propagate plants that were perhaps more valuable than carrots and more difficult to propagate by more conventional means? What about orchids?

Morel indeed adapted the technique to orchids and revolutionized the industry. Where traditional propagation will produce a handful of plants a year; the culture of orchid embryos produces thousands.

So, do plants have stem cells? You bet your sweet William!

Reprinted from the newsletter of the San Dieguito Garden Club, "The Bloomin' News," May 2001, of which Carl Price is the editor.

PROPAGATING MATILIJJA POPPY (*ROMNEYA COULTERI*)

BY JEANINE DE HART

THE MATILIJJA POPPY IS a beautiful plant and very popular. It is also quite expensive, which is a good reason for propagating your own plant. It is an easy plant to propagate but takes a long time.



The first step in propagation is to cut the plant to the ground. This needs to be done whether or not you intend to propagate it as *Romneya coulteri* blooms on new wood. The time for cutting the plant down is late October or early November. If you need cutting material, find a person with the plant. They will be happy to let you do the work!

After the plant has been cut to the ground, give it two or three weeks to grow roots. Native plants grow their roots in late fall through winter and their tops in the spring. Since you will be using the roots for propagation, you want to maximize this growth. After the roots have had a chance to grow, dig about one to two feet from the plant. The roots are orange brown in color with growth nodes on them. You want pieces of roots about as large around as a pencil and about 3-4 inches long. Put them fairly deep into soil in four-inch pots.

Now the fun begins—the reason this plant is so expensive is that it will take a good six months for roots to form. First it will put up green leaves and you will need to keep it moist but not wet as there are no roots to absorb the moisture. After the roots have formed, the cuttings can be put into a one-gallon container. Again, plant it a little deeper than you would expect as it will tend to push up out of the medium. After it is well rooted in the gallon container, it is ready to be planted in the garden.

R. coulteri has a reputation for being difficult to establish. A plant rooted in the late fall and planted into the garden the next late fall or winter has the best chance of survival. It is also best to plant them in the shade close to the sunny part of the garden. They will establish in the shade and move into the sun.

Give this plant plenty of room as it will spread 20 feet in all directions after it is established!

Happy growing! □

Jeanine De Hart, at age fifty, graduated from SDSU with a degree in botany in order to pursue a career in California native plants.

ROLAND HOYT BOOK REPRINT

ORNAMENTAL PLANTS FOR SUBTROPICAL REGIONS by Roland Hoyt has been reprinted by his sons. The book has been available only at rare book stores until now. (Going Rate \$65.00) Bill and Mike have donated the books to San Diego Floral Association. The books will sell for \$14.50 (tax included). \$10 of each book sale will be added to the scholarship fund established in the name of Ethel and Roland Hoyt. The books are available at the San Diego Floral office in Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. They can be mailed.

If you are a newcomer to San Diego you probably do not know about Roland Hoyt. He was one of our earliest landscape architects and is responsible for the landscaping of Mission Bay, the Community Concourse, and many noteworthy gardens around the city. At the time this book was written, there was no guide for Southern California that listed plants by their needs and requirements. It is still the most reliable guide available. The later half of the book is a written description and sketch of each plant in alphabetical order. In recent years many scientific names have been changed but there is an updated nomenclature list at the end of the book. The original 1940 book was published as a pocketbook, but this is enlarged—it is a handsome hardback book 7" x 10½". The price of the book (tax included) is \$14.50. Handling and postage is an additional \$3.00.

ORNAMENTAL PLANTS FOR
SUBTROPICAL REGIONS
Roland Hoyt

Price \$17.50
(TAX, POSTAGE, SHIPPING INCLUDED)

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SAN DIEGO CA 92101

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BUNNYLESS BLOSSOMS®

BY PAT PAWLOWSKI

"NOW YOU SEE IT, now you don't," as they say in the magic trade: It's that extra-special new little plant you bought yesterday—the one you searched for all over the county; the one you finally found at that little many-miles-away nursery; the one that you had been reading about and just had to have in your garden.

It's the little plant you saw in your yard just yesterday, when your troubles seemed so far away. You had lovingly placed it in its carefully prepared garden bed. You had gently patted the soil around its slender, fragile stem, while its sweet little innocent flower-face gazed up at you, trustingly, hopefully, as it prepared to grow tall and reward you with lovely green leaves and beautiful flowers in the months ahead. Later that evening, you looked out the window to see it.

Now, this morning, you don't.

Sometime between last night's dinner and this morning's breakfast, a petite furry monster came along and made a meal of your new treasured plant. Now, only a few tiny torn leaves scattered heartlessly upon the garden battlefield betray the comestible horrors that occurred when no one was watching.

THE BUNNY DID IT

As the great detective that you are, you have narrowed the list down (there were several suspects) to a single criminal—the dreaded *Sylvilagus audubonii*, or cottontail rabbit. This voracious creature has several aliases, such as:

(1) Bunny

Years ago when you were a youngster and gardenless, you called this creature a bunny, and you were enchanted every time you happened to glimpse one. You may even have begged your parents to buy you one. Now, it seems, you have more "bunnies" than you will ever need in a thousand lifetimes; in fact, rather than pay for a bunny, you would gladly pay someone to get rid of all of them. For good. For ever.

(2) Rabbit

Now you have finished growing yourself, but optimistically plan to grow other things like vegetables and ornamentals. Ha! After some weeks of viewing the remains of various hapless plants, you discover the perpetrator, casually nibbling on your gorgeous *Lobelia erinus* 'Crystal Palace.' One eye on you, his (or her) furry little chops completely and efficiently consume

every little brilliant blue flower. What is this flower decimator called? Certainly not a bunny—that's much too nice of a name. So you call it a rabbit.

(3) Unprintable

You've found out that almost every rabbit-foiling device has its drawbacks. For example, a circle of blood meal around prized plants (just like the circle of Conestoga wagons around the pioneers protected them from Indian attack) keeps rabbits away but you have to reapply it frequently and must be careful that it does not burn your plants. Hardware wire mesh works to keep rabbits out but it doesn't look all that great. A barking dog will make rabbits think twice, but the canine can't be in all places at all times. A fake snake might keep rabbits away but it also may keep your snakophobic friends (and birds) away too. Pepper spraying your plants (wouldn't it be nice if you could do that to the rabbits—you're thinking that right now, aren't you?) works, but what happens when you water those plants and the pepper gets washed off? It's made you kind of crazy. You debate the purchase of a "22." Now when you see one of those rotten rabbits, you sputter, "That—that—(unprintable)."

(4) Wascally Wabbit

As in the fifth psychological step of the terminally ill described by Elisabeth Kubler-Ross, you finally reach the stage of grudging acceptance. You realize that your garden will never be 100% safe from *Sylvilagus audubonii*, that Wascally Wabbit (WW). You chase that WW; you yell at him (or her); you wish you had a gun (maybe a water pistol?). In the end, however, a WW will nearly always be around. So you learn to appreciate a WW's cuteness. You remember that you wanted a WW when you were little—and now you've got one (or 10,000). And YOU DO ONE MORE THING:

YOU WILL PUT IN PLANTS THAT YOUR WW PROBABLY WILL LEAVE ALONE

Yes, there are ornamental plants that rabbits do not eat (generally speaking of course). Here is a partial list:

Sagebrush 'Powis Castle' (*Artemesia californica*) - 'Powis Castle' is not really a sage. It is a smallish evergreen shrub, with soft touchable vibrant silvery blue-green leaves, and has an extremely delicious mintlike fragrance.



Butterfly Bush (*Buddleia spp.*) - These are generally big bushes, for the most part evergreen in our climate. They have sweet-smelling, lila-like flower heads ranging from pink to lavender to stunning purple, beloved by nectar nosher. There are also white and yellow varieties. Naturally, the height of a mature butterfly bush keeps it from being nibbled to death (except by Harvey, perhaps). Even when the bush is small, though, rabbits don't seem to care for it much. Incidentally, another strategy in the bunny war would be to aim for a landscape of wood chips, flagstones, or other hardscape highlighted by sturdy mid-size-to-tall shrubs with arching, graceful branches and a protective wire mesh screen 2 feet high around the trunks, which would be barely noticeable due to the mass of the plant.



Vinca rosea (*Catharanthus roseus*) - Petite little perennials, sometimes grown as annuals. Takes sun but needs water. Sparkling little rosy, pink, white, or purple flowers. Good inland. Long blooming and mostly ignored by bunnies.



Monkey flowers (*Mimulus spp.*) - Don't monkey around; plant these perky perennials with insouciant flower faces that come in warm tones of red, orange, yellow, and buff. Nobody eats them, not even deer. Drought tolerant and native to California, they'll bloom for an extensive period. After that, they get a bit rangy but you can cut them back halfway if it bothers you. They might not always look perfect, but do you?

Oregano (*Origanum vulgare*) - A small handsome herb with tiny flowers that appeal to beneficial insects. Perhaps because of its intense aroma, rabbits don't usually like oregano. Thus you can breathe a sigh of relief since your pizza, too, is safe from bunnies. Sweet marjoram (*O. majorana*) is also safe from becoming a bunny banquet, and here's why: I think it smells weird.

Geranium (*Pelargonium spp.*) - Scented or un-, tall or short, these shrubby perennials don't appeal to rabbits. Ivy geranium (*P. peltatum*) has been an inch away from a bunny's nose and has survived. Many, many varieties. Colors in many shades of red, orange, white, pink, and purple. Easy in ground or in pots.

Rosemary (*Rosmarinus spp.*) - Unlike society garlic, rosemary smells delightful. However, rabbits will not touch it. This plant genus is wonderfully versatile: There are kinds used as ground covers, there are shrubby varieties, and there are large types that can be used as hedges that may grow as tall as 10 feet under the right conditions. Evergreen rosemary takes the hot sun and cool ocean mist too. It needs very little water, but likes good drainage. Most of the rosemaries have tiny flowers ranging from shades of palest blue to a deep indigo. There are white-flowering and pink-flowering varieties also. When in bloom, a rosemary can look quite spectacular. But don't expect an effect like cascading petunias (which would last about .10 of a second with a hungry rabbit around). The indoor attributes of rosemary are many: You can cook with it; you can decorate the house with it; you can use it as filler in a bouquet; you can put it in sachets. Outdoors, its nectarous flowers draw hummingbirds and butterflies. What more could you want?





Sage (*Salvia spp.*) - Some are native; some are not. All are good, mostly drought-tolerant plants that are generally not much bothered by bunnies. There are wonderful cultivars, and flower color range is enormous. Beloved by hummingbirds. Easy to grow and drought tolerant. Electric blue sage (*S. chamaedryoides*) has intense blue flowers with soft-looking luminous gray-green leaves.

Society Garlic (*Tulbaghia violacea*) - This graceful perennial with blue-green leaves has lovely rosy lavender flowers, and if you get close enough, it smells pretty bad. It can bloom almost year-round, with most blossoms in spring and summer. Sun and heat do not faze it; the more water, the lusher growth you get. For Martha Stewart wannabes, individual blossoms can be placed in the vicinity of deviled eggs. Good in salads; bad in bouquets. The lavender color of blooming large groupings of society garlic is almost psychedelic.

The list above is only a partial one, but it will at least give you a chance of having some green in particularly bunny-besieged areas. Gradually add other kinds of plants to see what happens. Also realize that many drought-tolerant native plants can withstand bunny browsing, perhaps because of their leathery leaves. Rabbits seem to prefer soft, succulent growth.

Finally, keep your cool, and a semi-tolerant attitude, even though you'll probably be thinking: If only each rabbit would stay right where it belongs, in a magician's top hat! □

Text copyright by Pat Pawlowski, who is a writer/lecturer and the wildlife garden designer for Animated Gardens.

ON GROWING TO POT

BY MORT BRIGADIER

NO ROOM TO GROW things? Live in a condo or apartment? Only have a small balcony? I grow full-size tomatoes in five-gallon pots. I grow cherry and 'Pixie' tomatoes in two-gallon pots.

In late March, I bought a bag of planter mix from my favorite neighborhood nursery. I also purchased a few used and dirty plastic pots that I thought I should have been given for free. After washing the pots, I soaked them in a wash tub in a 10% Chlorox solution to sterilize them. The planter mix filled two five-gallon, four two-gallon, and three one-gallon pots.

I did not get around to planting until April Fools Day. It was a Sunday. I planted 'San Diego' seedling tomatoes in the five-gallon pots, cherry and 'Pixie' tomatoes in the two-gallon pots, and some left over lettuce seeds in the one-gallon pots. After I compressed the soil, I weighed the pots before adding water.

I wanted to weigh each pot when it was dry and again when it was filled with water. Pots can be weighed on a bathroom scale, a postal scale, or even on a kitchen scale for smaller pots. For larger pots, you can weigh yourself on a bathroom scale while holding the pot and again while not holding the pot.

I put each pot in a tub of water and allowed each pot to fill to full capacity before I weighed it a second time. This took a lot of time to accomplish. I waited until the pots dried out before I watered them again.

By using one-gallon recycled opaque milk containers to water the pots, I could see how much water I was giving each pot. Quite by accident I discovered that one liquid ounce of water was one ounce by weight. The difference in weight would tell me how much water I needed to add when I had to water.

I added a quarter teaspoon of Schultz-Instant plant food to several one-gallon containers of water and set them aside to let the chlorine dissipate. I placed the pots on 2 x 2 redwood boards to keep the patio floor clean, to let the air circulate, and to spot any crawly insects. Although I fertilized every time I watered, there were no signs that I overfertilized.

How did my experiment in container gardening work out? I thought that it went pretty well. It taught me a lot about how much water plants really need. There were some days in July that I needed to water the smaller pots every day. Some June-gloom days, I

(continued on page 152)



Now is the Time . . .

A CULTURAL CALENDAR OF CARE FROM OUR AFFILIATES,
UC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION, AND CALIFORNIA GARDEN STAFF

AFRICAN VIOLETS

Helen LaGamma

NOW IS THE TIME

TO KEEP violets well groomed.

TO KEEP the area clean. Continue to wipe down the growing area with mild solution of Lysol and water.

TO SPRAY the leaves with warm water; cool water will chill the plants.

TO LEAVE air space between the plants.

TO KEEP pans of wet pebbles among the plants for added humidity; very important during hot weather.

TO PROVIDE bright light but no direct sun.

BEGONIAS

Margaret Lee

NOW IS THE TIME

TO FEED tuberous begonias in September as long as the leaves remain green.

TO START withholding water from the tuberous variety in October and do not feed them again.

TO PINCH back and give a final feeding of the year to your regular begonias in October, unless you have fed all year with a balanced fertilizer.

TO TAKE cuttings and plant them to increase your collection and to share.

BONSAI

San Diego Bonsai Club

NOW IS THE TIME

TO ADJUST watering schedule to the variable weather. Shallow pots may require two or three daily waterings on hot, dry, windy days.

TO TRANSPLANT wisteria if you want blossoms next spring.

TO REPOT quince, olives, and podocarpus.

TO MOVE deciduous trees to cool, shaded areas if you live in Southern California so they will not sprout any new growth.

TO FERTILIZE only lightly or not at all in October if you fertilized in September.

TO WAIT until spring for any major transplanting.

BROMELIADS

Mary Siemers

NOW IS THE TIME

TO WATER plants according to the weather (temperature), but do not allow the soil to become soggy.

TO CUT new offshoots (pups) and pot them while weather is still warm. Offshoots must be $\frac{1}{3}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ the size of the mother plant.

TO KEEP plants clean by cutting spent blooms and dead leaves.

TO REPOT plants that need larger pots (use next size larger).

TO ALWAYS USE new potting mix, making sure it is one that allows fast drainage.

TO GIVE bright light, up to 50 percent sunshine in coastal areas.

CACTI & SUCCULENTS

Joseph A. Betzler

NOW IS THE TIME

TO WATCH plants and fertilize less as they go dormant. The winter growers need more fertilizer and water as they start to grow.

TO MAINTAIN the growth pattern of the plant. Look for signs of growth as the season changes.

TO WATCH weather situations as changes can occur very fast in our area. Be sure to protect from the hot days that still may occur.

TO TRANSPLANT actively growing seedlings and rooted cuttings now so they can get established before winter.

TO CLEAN the area where plants are grown.

TO PREVENT insect pests from building into major problems. Look at your plants carefully and check for mealybugs, mites, aphids, and snails; treat appropriately.

TO FEED Christmas cacti with 0-10-10 to stimulate bloom.

CAMELLIAS

San Diego Camellia Society

NOW IS THE TIME

TO MAINTAIN a regular watering program during

development to keep plants damp but not soggy.
TO SPRAY with Sun-spray ultra fine oil or Malathion to control insects.
TO START or continue to disbud for better blooms, leaving one bud per cluster or one bud per branch for show quality blooms.
TO CONTINUE feeding with cottonseed fertilizer.
TO APPLY iron and zinc supplement, if indicated by pale foliage with darker green veins.
TO PROTECT plants from full sun to prevent burn.
TO MULCH to keep plants cool.

DAHLIAS

Abe Janzen

NOW IS THE TIME

TO CLEAN up old leaves and stalks, preparing for fall and winter.
TO SPRAY to prevent mildew and spider mites.
TO MAINTAIN a regular watering program until the first of October, then cut down watering gradually.
TO FEED with potash to promote good root growth. It also helps to keep plants healthier during the winter.

EPIPHYLLUMS (Orchid Cactus)

San Diego Epiphyllum Society

NOW IS THE TIME

TO PROTECT plants from exposure to direct sunlight.
TO SPRAY-MIST to provide moisture during warm spells and keep stems clean and free of dust. Spraying of foliage occasionally can be beneficial.
TO PREVENT soil from completely drying out.
TO PROTECT new growth from wind damage; stake plants and carefully tie to a trellis.
TO CHECK for snails and slugs; a few granules of Sluggeta at the base of the plant are often effective and leave little to no residue.
TO GIVE plants a final feeding for fall — use a balanced fertilizer before they become semi-dormant.

FERNS

San Diego Fern Society

NOW IS THE TIME

TO REMOVE dead fronds.
TO PLANT spores of all varieties.
TO PROTECT from hot sun, but give maximum light.
TO WATER and maintain humidity by keeping surrounding areas damp but not soggy.
TO FERTILIZE once with high nitrogen fertilizer.

TO CHECK for aphids, mealy bugs and scale; if present, use Malathion-50.

TO KEEP snails, pill bugs and slugs under control use metaldehyde granules.

FRUIT TREES AND VINES

Vincent Lazaneo, Hort. Advisor, UC Coop Extension

NOW IS THE TIME

TO CONTINUE periodic, thorough irrigation to maintain adequate soil moisture until winter rains begin.

TO OPERATE drip irrigation systems until we receive at least two inches of rain to prevent salt injury.

TO PRUNE out dead and severely damaged shoots of deciduous trees before foliage drops.

TO COVER maturing grape clusters with paper bags (poke small holes in the bags for ventilation) to protect maturing fruit from yellow jackets and birds.

TO CHECK on maturity of kiwi fruit. Maturity is measured by a change in seed color from white to brown or black. Pick large fruit first, but harvest before fruit softens.

FUCHSIAS

San Diego Fuchsia and Shade Plant Society

NOW IS THE TIME

TO PICK off spent blooms and seed pods.
TO MAINTAIN humidity by keeping areas sprayed. Be careful not to overwater, but mist during hot, dry, windy days. It is best to water in the early morning or in the cool of evening.
TO CONTINUE fertilizing for fall and winter blooms.
TO SPRAY as required for insect control. Be sure to wet the underside of leaves, the hiding place for egg laying.
TO MAKE cuttings while removing leggy growth — use the tender tips. October is a better month to propagate new plants.
TO KEEP cuttings in a cool place for four to six days; keep moist but not wet or soggy.

GERANIUMS (*Pelargoniums*)

Carol Roller

NOW IS THE TIME

TO WATER thoroughly when plants become somewhat dry. Allow the excess water to drain away. Water in advance of a Santa Ana. Keep foliage as dry as possible.

TO CONTINUE feeding soilless mixes with a soluble balanced fertilizer containing micronutrients. Use less than the recommended amount, but apply as often as necessary to avoid nutritional deficiencies.

TO CONTINUE a pest control and disease prevention program using all products according to the manufacturers' instructions.

TO BEGIN pruning, even if plants are still blooming. On regals, scented, and similar types at least one green leaf should be left on each stem being cut back. **TO MAKE** cuttings from prunings. Trim and insert into a moistened, sterile medium. Shelter cuttings from extreme weather.

TO KEEP all the plants tidy by removing faded flowers and discolored leaves.

TO CONTINUE to rotate plants on a regular basis in order to keep them well shaped.

HERBS

John Noble

NOW IS THE TIME

TO HARVEST and dry ginkgo leaves, yerba mansa roots, rose hips, lemon grass leaves, vitex berries, comfrey roots, fennel seeds, coral bell roots, ...

TO DRY flowers for bouquets and wreaths. Include roses, lavender, sweet annie, statice, yarrow ...

TO PRUNE back dried leaves and dried flowers of the summer flowering perennials — daylily, lily-of-the-nile, foxglove, feverfew, mullein, mint, sage, thyme.

TO AMEND the garden with fresh compost.

TO PLANT saffron bulbs, mints, parsley, calendula, rosemary, lavender, ...

TO WALK through your herb garden after the first rain and inhale the wonderful scents that you have planted.

IRIS

San Diego/Imperial Counties Iris Society

NOW IS THE TIME

TO CLEAN beds and discard old fans and debris.

TO DIVIDE and plant clumps of bearded irises.

TO FEED established tall bearded that are not being divided.

TO PLANT beardless irises: spuria, Siberian, Louisiana, and Japanese varieties. Louisiana and Japanese are grown in pots, pools, or in swampy conditions.

TO PLANT Dutch irises in October for spring bloom.

NATIVES
Jeanine De Hart

NOW IS THE TIME

TO INCREASE watering as the days get shorter. The natives will be putting out root growth from now through the winter. Always make sure that the water goes below the roots so that the roots will reach down. This helps make a more drought-tolerant plant. **TO GET** ready for fall planting. Plan to attend one or more of the October native plant sales held at various locations throughout the state. If you have clay soil you will either have to amend it for better drainage or plant the drought-tolerant natives on mounds.

TO REMOVE weeds. Remember, the weeds make better use of the resources than our desirable plants do!

TO FERTILIZE established plants at about $\frac{1}{2}$ the recommended strength. As watering is increased nutrients are leached out at a faster rate.

TO CHECK your yard for places where you are going to plant your natives. Pay attention to the drainage and whether or not it is a sunny or shady spot. There are natives that will thrive in any location. It is just a matter of the right plant for the right place.

TO CUT Matilija poppy to the ground. This plant only blooms on new growth. If it is not cut down, it will die down anyway. Propagation of this plant is done in the fall a couple of weeks after being cut back. Look for a separate article on this.

TO ENCOURAGE your favorite nursery to carry more California natives.

New address, Jeanine De Hart

1549 N. Vulcan Ave.

Encinitas, CA 92024

For a copy of "Propagation Secrets for California Native Plants," send a check for \$6 to above address.

ORCHIDS

Charles Fouquette

NOW IS THE TIME

TO STAY alert for Santa Ana winds with their high heat and low humidity. Frequent misting during this debilitating period will help plants, including orchids.

TO START Nobile *Dendrobium* on a 0-10-10 diluted fertilizer program. Be sure to leach the traces of other fertilizers from the pot. When the leaves drop from your Nobile *Dendrobium*, stop fertilizing and watering —just keep the pot damp over winter and protect from total freeze. When the new leaves start in spring, after plants flower, resume watering.

TO WATCH *Paphiopedilum* during hot dry days.

Remember this is a transition period (we may see a rapid decline in warm weather in October). *Paphiopedilum* and other non-bulbous orchids have no water storage capacities and must be misted more at this time than at any other.

TO WATCH for snails and slugs—see your local nursery person for the latest in pest control. Keep a sharp watch for red spider—they grow and multiply during this time of year. When spraying, get under the leaves—that is where they congregate. Use insecticides that are non-petroleum based. Again, see your nursery person for proper application.

TO MIST seedlings and other plants early in the morning to prevent shock of cold water on warm leaves. Also, when watering your *Phalaenopsis*, try to water in the early part of the day. *Phalaenopsis* and other Vandaceous orchids can take a great amount of light if the leaves are cooled by generous air movement to take the heat away from the hot leaves. Cold water on warm leaves will cause tissue to break down and die.

TO SHUT down the swamp cooler when the weather cools at the end of October. Drain the bottom and unplug the unit. Oil the motor and the oil cups on the fan. Patch any holes in the bottom with a patching compound. Check the water pump and cover for the winter.

ROSES

Marianne Truby

NOW IS THE TIME

TO REPLACE those bushes that have been less than satisfactory in your garden.

TO PREPARE your bushes for fall bloom by removing twiggy, dead, or diseased growth, and reduce canes that are leggy and out of proportion to the plant. Remove all diseased leaves, paint any cuts the size of pencil or larger with white glue to deter borers that may appear at this time of the year.

TO REFRESH mulch and cultivate soil around bushes to remove weeds and improve water penetration. Continue to water deeply by flooding the basin around each bush several times each watering period. The most economical method of watering is hand watering, and it is a great time to really SEE your plants.

TO LEARN to adjust to varying weather conditions, such as Santa Ana winds. Maintain moisture level in ground and keep foliage clean by washing down early in the morning.

TO VISIT fall flower shows and/or gardens whenever the opportunity arises to observe plants during their

fall bloom, often the most beautiful of the year.

TO REALIZE that all roses vary in their growth habits, color, form, and quality of bloom based upon the locale where they are planted. Roses grown in coastal communities seldom do as well in areas in East County where heat and dry conditions will provide a completely different environment. The moist coastal climate will produce excessive mildew on some varieties. New introductions frequently produce large plants (6' to 7' tall). Is your garden suitable for a bush of that size?

VEGETABLES

Vincent Lazaneo, Hort. Advisor, UC Coop Extension

NOW IS THE TIME

TO REMOVE warm-season vegetables badly damaged by pests or diseases and those that are past their prime production period.

TO PREPARE soil for planting cool-season vegetables by incorporating composted organic matter and a pre-plant fertilizer high in phosphorus. Begin planting cool-season vegetables: broccoli, Brussels sprouts, beets, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, endive, fava beans, kale, kohlrabi, lettuce, parsley, peas, potatoes (white), spinach, and turnips.

TO BUY seed of short-day onion hybrids like 'Grano' and 'Granex', as well as garlic cloves to plant in November for bulb production next summer. Onion sets can be planted for a quick crop of green onions but not for bulbs.

TO DIG sweet potatoes before any danger of frost. Be careful not to bruise roots. Dry thoroughly (one to two weeks), wrap in newspaper, and store close to 60°F.

VEGETABLES, ANNUALS

from UC Cooperative Extension Publications

NOW IS ONE OF THE BETTER TIMES IN FROST-FREE AREAS

TO PUT IN TRANSPLANTS OF: broccoli, cabbage, and cauliflower — aster, baby's breath, canterbury bell, carnation, cineraria, daisy (African, Shasta, English), delphinium, Chinese forget-me-not, foxglove, hollyhock, lobelia (in Sept.), pot marigold (*Calendula officinalis*), fairy primrose (*Primula malacoides*), snapdragon, stock (*Matthiola incana*), sand verbena (*Abronia umbellata*), ranunculus, sweet William, pansy and viola.

TO PUT IN SEEDS OF: beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, chard, endive, kale, kohlrabi, lettuce, onions (dry, in Oct.), parsley, parsnips, peas,

potatoes (Sept.), radishes, spinach, and turnips—
alyssum, baby blue eyes, baby's breath, bachelor's
button, African daisy, candytuft, columbine,
gloriosa daisy (in Oct.), delphinium, forget-me-not,
Chinese forget-me-not, gazania, hollyhock, and
wildflowers.

IN ADDITION TO SOME OF THE ABOVE, ALSO SUGGESTED (by Hortus "the art of gardening", 284

East Orange Grove Blvd., Pasadena CA) ARE:
NATIVES— *Ceanothus 'Concha'*, *Arctostaphylos* (manzanita) 'Howard McMinn', *Salvia apiana*, *Romneya coulteri* (matilija poppy), and *Penstemon spectabilis*.—**WILDFLOWERS**— *Clarkia amoena* and *unguiculata*, Flanders Field poppy, *Consolida ambigua* and *C. regalis*, and scarlet flax.

ASK A MASTER GARDENER

ABOUT POTTED PLANTS

QUESTION: I want to repot a new plant into a larger and prettier pot. Any suggestions?

ANSWER: It is best not to repot a new plant. Your plant is already stressed by being moved from the greenhouse to the nursery and from the nursery to your home. A larger pot at this time is not a good idea. The main reason for repotting is to give the roots more room to grow. There are many more reasons NOT to repot. The root ball may not be developed or big enough to be moved. There is always the danger of injuring or shocking the plant during transplant. The soil you add is probably not going to be as good as the nursery mix. Water will tend to run down the side of the root ball and into the fresh soil, causing the plant to dry out. Keep the plant in the same pot, but put this pot into a larger, prettier container. Just make sure you still have drainage.

QUESTION: When do I need to repot my houseplants?

ANSWER: Probably never. You may need to repot if the roots grow out the bottom; if the plant is in a lightweight plastic container and is prone to tipping over; if the plant is lifting itself out of the pot; if the plant has pups and needs to be divided; or if water is slow to percolate.

Some plants—African violets, cacti, miniature roses, and herbs—grow best in a confined space. I am told that some plants will not flower until they are rootbound. I have not been able to confirm this.

If you must repot, choose a pot of only the next larger size. Do not repot a plant because it "looks bad."

Repotting a sick plant will only kill it. If your plant is beyond help, take some live cuttings, fresh soil, clean pots, rooting hormone, a little time, and start over.

Some potted plants may already be too large and will only get larger should you repot them. You might be able to control the growth by pinching or pruning. Or, if you must repot, use the same size pot with fresh soil.

Florists often assemble plants to look attractive without regard for growth. Crowded conditions often encourage insects and disease. If you obtained a group planting from a florist, you may have to repot sooner.

QUESTION: Any tips on buying houseplants?

ANSWER: Do not buy a bargain plant. I do not recommend buying from a catalog or a store that does not handle Southern California-grown plants. Buy at a reputable nursery that you or your friends used in the past and were happy with.

Condition a new plant to its new environment in your home or office. Ask the retailer about how long they have had the plants and how often they were watered. You may need to wean your new plant from the high humidity and artificial light of the greenhouse. When moved to your home or office, the plant will need less water, especially if the outlet store waters on a daily basis.

Select the location before you select the plant. A plant with thick leaves needs less light and less water. A plant with thin leaves needs more, but it can "burn" more easily if the window light is too intense. Does your home have an overhang, a patio, or trees to make shade from the sun? Do you have skylights to bring the sun into your home? A south facing window might be great in winter but too hot in summer.

When fully grown, will the plant still fit the decor? Will it be too large? Too small? Will its scent be too strong for the room? Is it fairly resistant to insects and disease? How easy is it to move? To water? How much care will it need? How long can it be unattended during vacations? Ask yourself, "Is this the plant I want to live with?"

Water conservatively. Too many houseplants are being murdered by being overwatered. Some nurseries and outlet stores purposely overwater their plants to keep them looking good. An overwatered plant may look great until a day or two before it dies, but a wilted plant will recover when given water. My rule of thumb: Wet will rot; dry will not.□

Mort Brigadier

BY BETTY NEWTON

QUEEN'S WREATH VINE-PETREA VOLUBILIS

A LOVELY NEW VINE IS coming out of the shadows, perfectly suitable for Southern California. We wonder why we haven't seen it before. *Petrea volubilis* (accent "pet"), or queen's wreath, is not newly discovered. It is, after all, discussed in the last two editions of *Sunset Western Garden Book* and is in Roland Hoyt's fine *Ornamental Plants for Subtropical Regions*.

But it is NOT in our gardens or the nurseries, or even in our minds. One acquaintance found one in Berkeley.

Is it that we have too many wonderful vines? From *Antigonon*, rose of montana, to *Wisteria*, what we have is beautiful and intriguing. But vines are not used frequently enough. Here is one for one of the many new arbors and arches I see going in.

Queen's wreath may twine to 35 feet or make a mound. *Petrea* is easy to keep smaller, unlike passion flower and wisteria. It has 2- to 8-inch long, dark green, elliptical leaves. The leaves suggest the smooth, foliage of lavender trumpet flower, *Clytostoma*, but if you stroke them you quickly learn where *Petrea*'s other common name, sandpaper plant, comes from. They feel rough.

The interest in *Petrea* comes not from its abundance of foliage, but from the arching racemes of flowers. *Hortus Third* says they are 3 to 11 inches long, but the one on my desk measures 20 inches. The distance between flowers gives each stem an airy quality - a boon for arrangers. The raceme is almost wiry. On the arc, flowers are half inch apart. The flowers are a dark purple at first; then, the outer, largest part of the flower, becomes paler. The flowers have a more delicate effect than shows in our black and white illustration. Each has 1½ inch, soft, open, purple stars made of 1/6-inch wide petals! (I am using a ruler here to keep me honest.) I thought there was a tight, little purple knob in the center of each, but some of those are now opening. This inner part, the corolla, becomes a darker, velvety-textured, ¼- inch flower with rounded petals. Note that the flower stems remain on the raceme after the flower falls.

Petrea is native to the West Indies, Mexico, and Central America so it is tropical. I saw my first one at Pacific Tree Farms Nursery and thought this vine needed coastal humidity. Time shows that it is good in Florida, but great here, too. It has lived through cold to below 20 degrees here. Much of the foliage died but the vine came

roaring back.

Queen's wreath blooms as early as February. My friend growing it in El Cajon Valley said, in July, that her plant has not stopped blooming.



Petrea volubilis

Monrovia and Hines Nurseries, two large-scale wholesale growers who supply San Diego Nurseries, are not growing queen's wreath vines. But San Marcos Growers north of Santa Barbara (wholesale only) is. San Marcos has queen's wreath ready in the fields now in five-gallon containers. (All your nursery has to do is ask.) Randy Baldwin, general manager and partner at San Marcos Growers, says his *Petreas* lost no leaves in their recent frost that went into the twenties. He thinks it blooms more with inland heat.

Kartuz Greenhouses, 1408 Sunset Drive in Vista, California, is also growing *Petrea volubilis*. Michael Kartuz' business is primarily mail order. They are open Wednesday through Saturday, but phone 760/941-3613 to make an appointment or you may not find help. Their stock is in 4-inch pots and sells for \$5.00.

I have seen *Petreas* almost covered with flowers and with lots of light green leaves behind. Through the year those leaves become darker. This is a pretty vine. □
Betty Newton teaches for Grossmont Adult Education. Illustration by Cherie Ann Gossett.

AT THE GETTY MUSEUM

BY ROBERT HORWITZ



Champagne bougainvillea with maze in foreground.

ON THE TOPS OF SOME foothills of the Santa Monica Mountains sits the J. Paul Getty Museum. Architects and landscape designers worked together to create marvelous interplay with the texture and shape of the buildings and the gardens surrounding them. This is what makes this museum and its buildings and garden unique.

Pruning plays a big part in making the gardens match the structures. When one gets off the tram that takes you from the parking area to the museum, you see Italian stone pines standing tall to reflect the tall columns of the nearby buildings. The roundness of portions of the structure is mirrored by Australian tea trees with white blossoms. Balcony curves are matched by the curves of round pots filled with sweet alyssum and deep green rosemary. The rosemary also ties in with the small fountains and water courses nearby.

As a salute to the travertine stone of the buildings, California sycamores are pruned in pollarded fashion just like they are along the lanes and roads of Italy from where the stone comes. Large buried pots hold Mexican cypress in rows along an inner court and are supported by the ceiling of the room below.

Fountains are everywhere and are made very attractive by the garden material that not only blends into the background, but contrasts with them. The ivy that adorns some walls is trimmed on an even horizontal line about twenty feet above the ground. Bougainvillea is pruned into long formal bushes with varied colored bracts and in one location in the garden of the lowest level they are pruned growing out of a champagne glass type structure about fifteen feet tall. Nearby is a walled-off area containing a maze made from shrubs and along the low walls surrounding the maze are trees pruned in a bulbous shape with myriads of colorful flowers at their base.

At the edge of the museum is a large cactus garden on several levels. As you look at the shape of the cactus you can see in the distance the buildings of downtown Los Angeles showing a similar shape.

There are lots of stairs and alongside many of these stairs are yew trees pruned to fit into the height of the walls that guide the staircases. Our tour of the gardens was led by a lovely lady named Ellen Hart and my thanks to her for all her help and information. □



Cactus Garden wth Los Angeles in the distance.

Robert Horwitz is a retired space engineer who gardens in the Point Loma section of San Diego.

LOQUAT TREES

BY VIRGINIA INNIS

THE LOQUAT HAS MANY qualities that endear it to flower arrangers and home gardeners alike. A medium to small tree in size, the loquat is a fast grower that responds well to pruning. It is a fine flowering-fruited tree that may be trained as a shrub. Both loquats discussed here are evergreens, having large, prominently-veined, sharply-toothed leaves. One bears edible fruit; the other is an ornamental tree. Both however will attract birds.

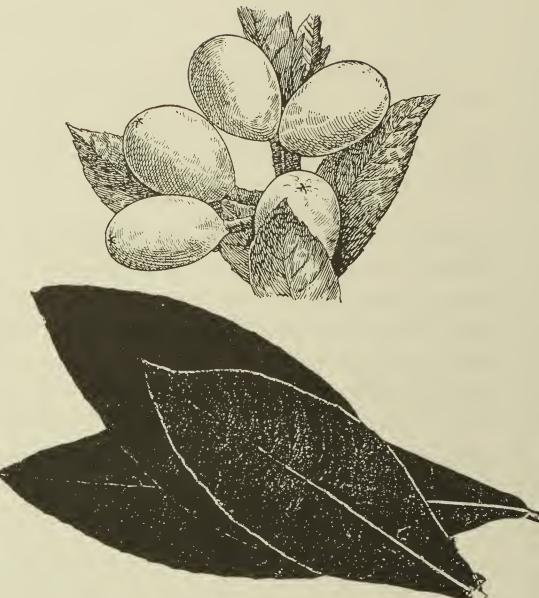
The bronze loquat (*Eriobotrya deflexa*) is very attractive to flower arrangers because of its ornamental nature. In early spring, new foliage is bright and bronzy-red, standing out in contrast to the dark green of older foliage. Small white flowers appear in clusters—not showy but fragrant. Later, currant size fruits appear, turn golden as they ripen, but never "sweeten-up." The leaves of this tree are smaller than other loquats, more pointed, more shiny, and less leathery. Taken as a whole, this loquat is more shrub-like in appearance.

The fruiting loquat (*E. japonica*) will reach heights of 30 feet. It will grow slender in the shade but will spread in the sun. The leaves are leathery and deep green on the upper side. The underside is rust colored and wooly (as are the branches and new growths), but newer foliage is a brighter apple-green. Mature trees usually have seedlings coming up beneath them or elsewhere in the garden. These seedlings make fine ornamentals.

The fruit of the mature *E. japonica* is unpredictable. If the fruit is intended for use as a food, a grafted nursery stock tree is a wiser investment. The fruit can be 1-2 inches long, apricot to gold in color, and tart to sweet in flavor. Aromatic and acid, with a large apricot-like seed in the center, the fruit of the *E. japonica* is not too unlike the apricot. The fresh fruit is tasty and excellent for cooking purposes such as baking pies or for making jams and jellies.

Nurseries carry two in the grafted stock [see note at end]. One is 'Champagne', which is a yellow-skinned tart fruit appearing March to May. This one does well in warmer areas. The other is 'Gold Nugget', which is recommended for coastal plantings. It bears sweeter, richer-colored fruit from May to June.

The fruiting *E. japonica* is supposed to be hardy to 20 degrees above zero and the bronze loquat to 32 degrees above. I grow both loquats and they have not defoliated in recently cold San Diego weather. Loquats that I have observed in yards and patios where the



Leaves of loquat tree about 12 inches in length.

temperature dropped considerably lower than here in San Diego seemed to be doing well.

Both loquats like well-drained, moist soil. They grow well in the semi-tropic regions of the Southwest. However, a mature tree will tolerate some drought. Loquats look attractive planted in groups of two or three and the two types discussed here surely make excellent plantings together. □

Reprinted from California Garden, January-February 1974 (65:1:25).

Virginia Innis is a State Garden Club Flower Show School instructor and an accredited judge. She has gardened in San Diego for over fifty years.

[Editor's note: The aforementioned 'Champagne' and 'Gold Nugget' are sold in some nurseries in the San Diego area, and 'Big Jim', and 'Macbeth' are also available or are expected to be by the middle of September.]

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("On Growing to Pot"
continued from page 143)

watered "spasmodically."

I still have a few tomatoes as I write this, but 'San Diego', an indeterminate plant, did not reflower to make more fruit. My lettuce has long since gone to seed. Yes, I saved the second generation seed. By moving pots, turning pots, changing pots, by moving pots into shade, partial or full sun, by looking for and washing away any insects, I felt that I was actually controlling the environment. Is it fun to do? Does it take more or less effort? Try it yourself and see. Although I cannot weigh the trees, bushes, and plants in my yard, I gained some insight in how to water my larger garden. □

Mort Brigadier majored in horticulture at Cuyamaca College and has an MBA in management. He is a UCCE Master Gardener.

The Flower & Garden Show at the 2001 Del Mar Fair

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 Cuyamaca College Botanical Society.....Weidner's Gardens
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 Most Practical Landscape.....Top to Bottom
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 Manager's Trophy.....Weidner's Gardens
 Massachusetts Horticultural Society Gold Medal.....
 Armstrong Garden Centers
 New Exhibitor Award.....New Leaf Nurseries
 Patio Garden Award.....New Leaf Nurseries
 People's Choice Award.....Quail Botanical Gardens
 Philadelphia Flower Show Award.....Blue Horizon
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 San Diego County Water Authority Awards
 1st Place, Commercial.....Designs By Shellene
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1st Place, Youth.....Escondido FFA
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 "Most Creative Use of Plant Materials.....
 Solana Succulents & Tropic World
 Unique Landscape Award.....Solana Succulents & Tropic World
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 Bonsai Best of Show.....Patricia McConahey
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 1st Place, Decorative.....Gary and Gail Blalock
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 Dahlia Specimen Blooms Sweepstakes.....Francisco Sanchez
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 Lily Specimen Blooms Sweepstakes.....Bassett Orchids
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San Diego, CA 92101-1622 [in Casa del Prado, Balboa Park]



Book Reviews

LOOKING-GLASS GARDEN: Plants and Gardens of the Southern Hemisphere

Peter Thompson

Portland, Timber Press, 2001, 451 pages, 151 color photos, 4 maps, 6" x 9", hardcover, \$39.95

Our gardens have been based on European tradition that included which plants were used, and how our gardens would look. The first plants arriving in Europe from the Southern Hemisphere were for study by botanists or to be included in exotic collections. Early plants from China and Japan were more easily integrated into European gardens.

Peter Thompson describes the places he visited and plants he enjoyed as stepping through the looking glass into the world of unfamiliar plants growing in the Southern Hemisphere. The plants are not intended to be a comprehensive list of all those available. As a resident of England, he approaches them differently than we might, but still includes many species and some genera (such as *Restio*), not commonly found here.

The principal areas visited are Australia, New Zealand and South Africa. The book is divided into sections: Gardens in Sunshine, Gardens in Shadow, Gardens in Containers, and finally Case Studies in California, Mediterranean Europe, Pacific Northwest, and Britain.

Any plant lover will enjoy the wide range of plants. Many familiar species are included: *Acacia*, *Banksia*, *Cycad*, *Eucalyptus*, *Melaleuca*, *Phormium*, and *Protea*. Some not so familiar include the grass trees (*Kingia australis* and *Xanthorrhoea*), the cabbage trees (*Cordyline*) and southern beeches (*Nothofagus*).

My favorite part was the twelve pages on the plants of the South African fynbos (pronounced fainbos). This includes *Erica* (narrow leaved), *Protea* (broad leaved), and *Restio* (reed-like). A number of these restios can be found growing in the Cape section of Quail Botanical Garden.

The photos are a nicely balanced combination of close-ups of plants, mostly taken at botanical gardens (including

Huntington and Lotusland). Included in the examples of gardens in California are UC Santa Cruz, Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, and in the San Diego area, Andrew Wilson's garden.

Reviewed by R. Cox

GLORIOUS GARDENS OF IRELAND

Melanie Eclare

North Pomfret, VT Trafalgar Square, 2001, 160 pages, 200+ color photos, 9½" x 11", hardcover, \$40

This collection of photographs of twenty gardens of Ireland does an outstanding job of pointing out the beauty of these Irish gardens. Ireland has many hidden and secret places and in part due to a developing world of Irish gardening and the EC-funded restoration scheme many of these places have been highlighted. The author, a garden photographer, has a reputation for stunning photography and her knowledge of plants and design help to provide this complete and astounding volume. Many hidden and secret places, small, new, and ancient have been included. Renovation, restoration, and newly created areas of living beauty are set in areas containing ancient walls, structures, and statues that provide a setting for the gardens that would be impossible to duplicate elsewhere.

Many areas of Ireland, seashore, urban as well as churchyards, and formal gardens dating back to the late seventeen hundreds are included here. New owners have been re-creating these early gardens. When possible some original plantings (vines, hedges, etc.) have been pruned back and so live to grow another day. Botanical names are used throughout the text. The beauty of the photos and the very readable text will provide enlightening information and delight! It truly is an "Emerald Isle!"

Reviewed by Marianne Truby

GROUND COVER: A Thousand Beautiful Plants for Difficult Places

John Cusnie

Kyle Cathie Ltd., North Pomfret, Vt., Distributed by Trafalgar Square Publishing, 2000, 160 pages, 176 color photos, 9" x 10¼", hardcover, \$29.95

A mass of ornamental cabbage on the title page tells us that here is a whole new meaning to the common concept of ground cover. For this author, a British garden designer and writer, ground cover literally covers the ground, effectively discouraging weeds and filling every inch with any other kind of plant, from bulbs to shrubs and everything between—except, thank goodness, there is no red apple!

Mass planting is the operative word here. A fair amount of space at the beginning is devoted to active eradication of weeds, using a variety of methods. Then the author gets to the heart of his subject. He devotes the first

half of the book to descriptions of all the kinds of places that ground cover, i.e., masses of plants, will grow: dry or damp shade, alkaline or acid soil, clay or dry sandy soil, under hedges, around swimming pools, along the garden path. Color photos illustrate the glory of large groupings of a single plant, be it high or low, flower or foliage.

The second part of the book offers plant descriptions grouped in types of growth and features. These include climbers, grasses, vegetables, conifers, ferns, and perennials.

The book is organized very efficiently, with photos of plants described on the same page, shown as both in close-up and in combination with other plants in a suggested landscape. Handsome graphic design with lots of white space makes for even easier reading and comprehension.

The author maintains that a thick layer of ground covering plants is the best prevention for weeds to return. But the impressive aesthetic effects of his version of ground covering would be persuasive enough for most readers to take his ideas to heart.

Reviewed by Marge Howard-Jones

LANDSCAPING WITH HERBS

James Adams

Portland, Timber Press, 2001, 223 pages, 134 color photos, 8½" x 11", softcover, \$19.95

Any useful plant fits this author's definition of an herb, but he also values herbs for their beauty, fragrance, and overall attributes in the landscape. Drawing on the full spectrum of herbal varieties, he presents them as landscape features offering delight to sight and smell in all kinds of gardens, formal and informal, contemporary and wild. In each section of the book he focuses on a particular kind of garden: a large selection of detailed plot plans are followed by plant descriptions and imaginary "garden walks" that demonstrate the many ways that herbs enhance any horticultural scene.

Each design section includes a wide choice of planting options effectively illustrated by drawings and small color photos. Next comes the descriptions of specific herbs with planting information, and recipes for food and health aids. Then, having immersed the reader in a broad field of herbal lore, the author leads the way through a "garden walk" sharing the full sensory experience of a herbal garden.

A family tree at the beginning of the book introduces the botanic families and common names of herbs. A complete listing of herbs in a table at the end of the book is a concise compendium of all necessary information: plant size, foliage, blossoms, exposure needs, propagation and germination periods, desired soil types, pest

problems, and growing zones. Finally there is a dictionary of Latin plant names, from *actosa* (bitter) to *zygis* (yoked or joined) that offers more clues to herbal benefits. Useful as herbs are, this book convincingly demonstrates that utility is only a small part of their value in a garden.

Reviewed by Marge Howard-Jones

Note: This book originally published by Timber Press in hardcover in 1987.

THE PERFECT GARDEN: the Best Plants for the Best Design

Sunviva Harte

North Pomfret, Vt., Trafalgar Square Publishing, 2001, 144 pages, 130 color photos, 8½" x 11", hardcover, \$29.95

Perfection in the garden may be a long-range goal for some, but this book suggests that anticipation, in this case, might truly surpass the reality. Looking for ideas for creating a Classic Italian Style Garden, a Cottage Garden or a Jungle Garden, or even a Coastal Garden? The author, a British plant photographer and gardening author, has a chapter on each style, as well as sections on architectural plants, hiding eyesores, pruning, and garden sculptures. The latter includes a great photo of willow-woven geese that would enhance any garden.

However, most of the beautiful color photos, rich in contrasting texture and form as they are, reminded this reader more of artistic floral arrangements than real gardens. Other views of busy landscapes, filled with a variety of plant and architectural elements resemble professionally decorated rooms, with every trendy detail complete. Maybe, just as nature abhors a vacuum, she has trouble with contrived perfection as well. These landscapes are so artfully arranged that they seem drained of life.

Reviewed by Marge Howard-Jones

FERN GROWER'S MANUAL

Barbara Joe Hoshizaki and Robbin C. Moran

Portland, Timber Press, 2001, 624 pages, 50 color photos, 165 b&w photos, 826 line drawings, 8½" x 11", hardcover, \$59.95

This very complete volume describes all the commonly cultivated species of ferns including many varieties and cultivars grown in the United States. The author Barbara Joe Hoshizaki is president of the American Fern Society, and a former professor of botany at Los Angeles City College. A book written for those with a serious interest in ferns, it also would be helpful to beginning fern enthusiasts. Her previous book published in 1975 was only 263 pages with very brief information on each species. The format and chapter titles remain but the wealth of information added is truly staggering.

Reviewed by R. Cox



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E-mail: keikiman@aol.com

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E-mail: kenasplumeria@aol.com

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As an experiment, we will try printing special events or speakers at your regular meetings in the Horticultural Calendar, which we have not done before. If you wish to be included, send a separate write-up; we will not be picking items out of your newsletter.



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HISTORY OF CALIFORNIA'S GARDENS
Pictures Requested

I am writing a history of California's gardens, "California's Gardens—past and present," to be published by Ten Speed Press in Berkeley (Spring 2002). I would be grateful if any reader has pictures of old gardens in the San Diego area or knows where there are such pictures. It would be a privilege to be allowed to copy them and ask the publisher to consider them for the book.

If they are accepted, the owner's generosity would be acknowledged. I promise to take very good care of any picture that is lent to me and to return it as soon as possible.

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Carl Herzog
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San Diego Fern Society

25TH ANNIVERSARY

MEETING

COME HELP US CELEBRATE

The Fun of Ferns

Casa del Prado - Balboa Park

Thursday, October 18 - 7:30 PM

Setting by the rushing river - on the leaves of reeds that quiver, Fairies gaze at skies so blue - while sipping tea of morning dew

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